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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Are Americans Ready Now for a Mormon President? Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. July 5, 2011.

Overall, being a Mormon is hardly an asset for presidential candidates, but it is not a deal-breaker for most Americans. A quarter of Americans say they would be less likely to support a presidential candidate who is Mormon, while 68% say it would not make a difference. For perspective, about the same number say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who has used marijuana in the past.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2048/polls-are-republicans-ready-for-a-mormon-president-romney-huntsman> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

Climate Change, the Indoor Environment, and Health. Committee on the Effect of Climate Change on Indoor Air Quality and Public Health, Institute of Medicine. June 2011.

The indoor environment affects occupants' health and comfort. Poor environmental conditions and indoor contaminants are estimated to cost the U.S. economy tens of billions of dollars a year in exacerbation of illnesses like asthma, allergic symptoms, and subsequent lost productivity. Climate change has the potential to affect the indoor environment because conditions inside buildings are influenced by conditions outside them.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13115#toc [HTML format with links].

Item#3

Educating Women and Girls. Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. June 30, 2011.

Education is crucial to a country's economic and social development. Research by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) shows that each year of schooling increases an individual's economic output by 4 to 7 percent. Educating women and girls, in particular, yields profound social and economic benefits. Studies demonstrate that educating women and girls leads to lower infant and child mortality rates, lower maternal mortality rates, better educated children and increased participation by women in the workforce. Yet despite these benefits, in many countries females receive less schooling than males. The eJournal explores how international organizations, state governments, the private sector and individuals, in many different countries, are tackling this global challenge and improving people's lives.

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/america/475/pdf/EducatingWomenandGirls_Vol15_No12.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#4

Emerging Markets Reshaping the World. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Uri Dadush and William Shaw. June 30, 2011.

Developing countries are transforming every aspect of global economic interaction. Global leadership is needed to ensure that this shift is marked by increased prosperity rather than conflict.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://carnegieendowment.org/2011/06/30/emerging-markets-reshaping-world/tyr> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

Foreign Assistance: Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Marian Leonardo Lawson. June 13, 2011.

The flow of private sector resources to developing countries has increased significantly in recent decades. Seeking opportunity in this changing environment, government development assistance agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the State Department are working with private sector entities in unprecedented ways to determine when and if such partnerships can lead to improved development results.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41880.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#6

Majority Sees U.S. Leadership in Space as Essential. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. July 5, 2011.

On the eve of the final mission of the U.S. space shuttle program, most Americans say the United States must be at the forefront of future space exploration. Fifty years after the first American manned space flight, nearly six-in-ten (58%) say it is essential that the United States continue to be a world leader in space exploration; about four-in-ten say this is not essential (38%). Looking back on the shuttle program, a majority (55%) say it has been a good investment for the country.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2047/poll-space-exploration-shuttle-program-final-mission> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Neither Isolationist nor Noninterventionist: The Right Way to Think About Foreign Policy. The Heritage Foundation. Marion Smith. July 5, 2011.

There is a lot of confusion about America's proper role in the world at the moment. The terms "isolationism" and "noninterventionism" are often used without clear meaning. These two concepts do have specific definitions that should be properly understood, but we must also be aware of how these terms are being used. The stakes are high, and America cannot afford another deadly encounter with isolationism, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/wm3309.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

Item#8

The Security Summit in Central America: On the Modest Meaning of Shared Responsibility. Brookings Institution. Kevin Casas-Zamora. June 30, 2011.

At last week's international conference convened to support Central America's regional security strategy, held in Guatemala City, all the talk was about the co-responsibility of drug-consuming countries, such as the United States and Europe's own, in solving the region's security crisis. But alas, the meeting in Guatemala yielded relatively little in the way of fresh funds to combat organized crime in the isthmus, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0630_central_america_casaszamora.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

Two Years of Economic Recovery: Women Lose Jobs, Men Find Them. Pew Social & Demographic Trends. Rakesh Kochhar. July 6, 2011.

The sluggish recovery from the Great Recession has been better for men than for women. From the end of the recession in June 2009 through May 2011, men gained 768,000 jobs and lowered their unemployment rate by 1.1 percentage points to 9.5%. ¹ Women, by contrast, lost 218,000 jobs during the same period, and their unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 8.5%, according to the Pew Research Center analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/07/Employment-by-Gender_FINAL_7-6-11.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#10

U.S. Seen as Among the Greatest Nations, But Not Superior to All Others. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 30, 2011.

Despite the struggling economy and broad dissatisfaction with national conditions, the public has a positive view of the United States' global standing. But more think that the U.S. is one of the greatest countries in the world than say it stands above all other countries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2045/america-global-standing-most-say-among-greatest-but-not-single-greatest-nation> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

With Little Notice, Globalization Reduced Poverty. YaleGlobal. Laurence Chandy and Geoffrey Gertz. July 5, 2011.

A major success in a poverty-reduction goal for the new millennium - halving the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 per day - largely went unnoticed. The World Bank estimates poverty levels, but the most recent data is from 2005. By combining the recent country survey data of household consumption with latest figures on private consumption growth, Chandy and Gertz generated poverty estimates to the present day. They conclude that the world - even stubborn Sub-Saharan Africa - is in the midst of rapid poverty reduction; they credit economic growth and widespread development brought by globalization. Poverty reduction was one part of a key UN Millennium Goal, and global observers may sit up and take notice after two other key parts are achieved: full and productive employment for all and halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In the meantime, the authors promise far-reaching consequences from rapid poverty reduction via growth.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/little-notice-globalization-reduced-poverty> [HTML format, various paging].